

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 EB-07 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 748

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION UN

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR TU GR US

SUBJECT FURTHER GREEK REACTION TO HOUSE VOTE ON PARTIAL

LIFTING OF TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO

REF: ATHENS 7606

1. SUMMARY. THE GREEK PRESS CONTINUED TO TAKE A NEGATIVE LINE IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON US ARMS FOR TURKEY, BOTH IN NEWS REPORTS AND EDITORIALY. AT THE SAME TIME, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ARGUED THAT ONE SHOULD "WAIT AND SEE," INDICATING THAT NEW INIATIVES WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE US AND THE EC AS A RESULT OF THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. THIS ATTITUDE WAS ACCOMPANIED, HOWEVER, BY EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT THAT THE TURKS WOULD BECOME MORE CONCILIATORY. THE ARGUMENT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO MADE THAT GREECE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ITS OWN

DEFENSES AND WAS IN GOOD SHAPE IN THIS RESPECT AS A RESULT OF THE ARMS IT IS RECEIVING, INCLUDING FROM THE US
END SUMMARY.

2. SATURDAY AFTERNOON'S PRESS (OCT 4) CONTINUED THE GENERAL HIGHLY CRITICAL THEME OF THE MORNING EDITIONS (REFTEL), POINTING OUT THAT TURKEY WANTED EVEN MORE ARMS, THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION HAD NOT ALTERED THE TURKISH POSITION AND BLAMING THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ERRONEOUS POLICY. LEFT OF CENTER, ANTI US ELEFTHERTYPIA CRIED IN HUGE HEADLINES "WRATH AGAINST THE AMERICANS-THE BASES SHOULD LEAVE." EDITORIALY, THE PAPER ATTACKED PRESIDENT FORD, VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AND SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR HAVING ONCE AGAIN DECEIVED CONGRESS. IT ALSO CALLED FOR BALKAN UNITY, RESSURECTING THE SPECTER THAT THE GREAT POWERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CARVE UP THE BALKANS TO SUIT THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

3. SUNDAY, HOWEVER, BROUGHT LESS CRITICAL HEADLINES AND MORE MEASURED COMMENT IN THE PAPERS. PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT ON THE ARMS EMBARGO, COMBINED WITH THE CLARIFICATION FROM AN OFFICIAL GOG SOURCE THAT GREECE PROPORTIONALLY IS RECEIVING FOUR TIMES MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAN TURKEY FROM THE US ALONE (AND HAS OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY AS WELL), HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE MEDIA. WHILE THE EXTREME LEFT PAPERS CONTINUED TO BE HIGHLY CRITICAL, MOST ARGUED THAT THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY WOULD NOT UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HIGHLIGHTED STORIES SIMILAR TO THAT IN RIGHT-WING ELEFTHEROS COSMOS WHICH WAS HEADLINED "IT IS EXPECTED THAT PRESSURE WILL BE EXERCISED ON ANKARA BY THE US-EC." COSMOS ATTRIBUTED ITS STORY TO GOVT SOURCES INDICATING THAT THE GREEK GOVT EXPECTS THAT DURING OCTOBER THERE WILL BE A NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE TAKEN BY THE US AND THE EC, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES. (THE SOURCES REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT "WITH THE RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, THE PRETEXT WHICH THE TURKISH GOVT WAS ADVANCING UNTIL NOW, REFUSING TO ACCEPT DISCUSSION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM, ..HAS BEEN SET ASIDE."

5. COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS (KKE-EXTERIOR) PRESSED THE ATTACK, HOWEVER, "WITH THE RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY, STRONG INDIGNATION AS A RESULT OF THE AMERICAN

PROVOCATION." A CHARGED EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT THE AID
WOULD ONLY HELP THE TURKS AND REJECTED THE "MEDIATION
OF THE AMERICAN 'NATOISTS' ACCOMPLICES." COMMUNIST
KKE-INTERIOR AVGHI WAS MORE SEDATE IN POINTING OUT RATHER
SMUGLY THAT ANKARA WAS BEING DIFFICULT WITH THE AMERICANS
(FOLLOWING THE HOUSE ACTION) WHEREAS BOTH THE GREEK AND
THE CYPRIOT GOVTS HAD TREATED THE PROPOSAL WITH
DIPLOMATIC POLITENESS. ITS EDITORIAL CALLED FOR GREECE
TO LEAVE NATO AND TO HAVE ALL GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES
FORM A JOINT POLICY ON CYPRUS. IT CRITICIZED PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS FOR NOT LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE AND
FOR ACTING ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY.
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